

Police Station No. 10
1170 Columbus Avenue
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1115

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MASS,
13- BOST,
117-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MA-1115

POLICE STATION NUMBER 10

Location: 1170 Columbus Avenue, Boston Massachusetts

Present Owner: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 50
High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Present Occupant: The Third Nail.

Present Use: Drug Rehabilitation Center. Demolished c. 1980

Significance: This building is one of the first municipal buildings built in Roxbury after its annexation to Boston in 1868. It is also important as a work by Gridley J.F. Bryant, who with various partners designed a number of buildings in Boston and New England in the late 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1869
2. Architect: Gridley J.F. Bryant and Louis J. Rogers
3. Original and subsequent owners:

Legal Description, April 17, 1968: Parcel B48-7 in deed of this date: A parcel of land supposed to be owned by the City of Boston, bounded westerly by Columbus Avenue 63.34 feet; northeasterly by land now or formerly of Eliot Discount Corporation and by land of an owner unknown (Elmwood Court so-called) a total of 166.11 feet; southeasterly by land now or formerly of Boston Nazarene Chapel, Inc. 48 feet; and southwesterly, northwesterly and again southwesterly by land now or formerly of William P. Doyle and Thomas J. Doyle, 42.62 feet, 1.0 feet and 90.46 feet, respectively; containing about 8300 square feet.

1868 Deed May 20, 1868, recorded May 21, 1868
in book 926, page 63, and accompanied by a plan dated
April 7, 1868, drawn by William A. Garbett, surveyor.

Henry F. Durant
to
City of Boston

1968 Deed April 17, 1968, recorded April 17, 1968, in book 8200, page 302, and accompanied by a plan dated April 17, 1968, drawn by Donald Morgan, Civil Engineer.

City of Boston
to

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Works

4. Alterations and additions: A one-story brick rear extension, one-bay deep, was added in 1937, Harold Field Kellogg, architect. Interior alterations may have been done at the same time. Beyond this elevation is a 1½ story brick ell, which had originally been a water pumping station (ca. 1880), and was converted to a garage for police cars ca. 1925. This was then joined to the police station via the new extension in 1937 and converted into office space in 1970.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings: A set of blueprints for the rear addition and proposed interior modifications (1937), Harold Field Kellogg, architect. (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority).

2. Bibliography:

a. Secondary and published sources:

Bailey, Henry Turner, "An Architect of the Old School,"
New England Magazine, Vol. XXV (1901), pp. 326-49.
Boston Evening Transcript, Supplement, January 1, 1870, p. 2.
City of Boston, Police Department, Annual Report 1869
(Boston, City Document #8, 1870), p. 10.

Mackay, Robert B. "The Charles Street Jail: Hegemony of a Design," Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Boston University, American and New England Studies Program, 1980.

Prepared by: Cynthia Zaitzevsky
Consultant, Kaiser Engineers Inc./
Fay, Spoffard and Thorndike
August, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Red brick with a mansard roof.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, to be demolished.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 40' x 81', plus a 30' x 50' ell. The main structure is three bays by seven bays; two stories plus the attic and basement.
2. Foundation: granite and brick
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick construction with granite entrance, string courses and other details.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick masonry bearing walls and timber framing.
5. Stoops: High front stoop leading to main entrance.
6. Chimneys: Twelve brick chimney stacks rising up from mansard roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance consists of granite pilasters supporting a heavy plain entablature. Double wooden doors are surmounted by a round arched light.
 - b. Windows: The front side of the first floor includes paired windows on either side of the entrance, with granite sills and bracketed lintels. The second floor of the front side includes brick pilasters with granite bracketed sills and lintels. The attic windows are surmounted by broken base pediments. Most other windows include flat granite sills and lintels.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: mansard roof with slate covering.
 - b. Cornice: A wide modillioned cornice, separating the second floor from the attic level, wraps around the entire main building.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Flooring: Wood, covered in most parts by linoleum.
2. Wall and ceiling finish: plaster and paint.
3. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Simple door frames. Second-floor doors have transoms with wooden louvers (Originally bedroom doors).

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces northwesterly on Columbus Avenue across from the Roxbury Crossing Bridge, near the intersection with Roxbury Street.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Department of Transportation in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the completion of the Convention Center Project. John A. Burns, A.I.A., was the Project Coordinator. Photographs were taken by Richard Cheek in October 1979. The written data was compiled by Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Consultant for Kaiser Engineers Inc./Fay, Spoffard and Thorndike, in August 1979. This documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Robert S. Lange of the HABS staff in August 1980.